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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

SOWLE ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/501,876

Filed: June 15, 1999

For: COLOR STABLE HYPOCHLOROUS
SANITIZER AND METHODS

Art Unit: 1617

Examiner: Yu, G.

Kay Matter No. - QO 1173USII-Kay

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed on July 16, 2002, Applicants request examination of all of claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-27 and 29-52 in light of the following remarks.

Restriction Requirement:

Claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-27 and 29-52, the subject matter of which was previously examined by Examiner Yu in a November 21, 2001 Office Action and Examiner Harrison in a March 26, 2001 Office Action, are now subject to a restriction requirement. The Office Action proposes to separate the current claims into two groups:

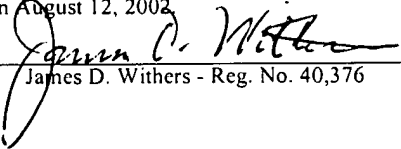
Group I: Claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-27 and 29 and 50-51, drawn to a chlorine-containing composition and a method of cleaning wares or hard surfaces using the chlorine-containing composition; and

Group II: Claims 30-49 and 52, drawn to a method of washing wares using the chlorine-containing composition.

The Office Action suggests that the above restriction requirement is proper given that:

(1) the method of hand washing wares recited in the claims of Group II may be practiced with a composition other than the composition recited in the claims of Group I (see July 16, 2002 Office Action, page 2, lines 17-19);

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on August 12, 2002.


James D. Withers - Reg. No. 40,376